

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STRUCTURE AND BRIDGE DIVISION

INSTRUCTIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Ancillary Structures	NUMBER: IIM-S&B-89.1 IIM-TE-375.1
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Maximum Span Length Limits for Ancillary Structures, and Bridge Mounted Ancillary Structures	Date: May 11, 2021
	SUPERSEDES: IIM-S&B-89.0 TE-375.0 IIM-LD-250.0
DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL:	
<p>Raymond J. Khoury, P.E. State Traffic Engineer Approved: May 7, 2021</p>	<p>Kendal R. Walus, P.E. State Structure and Bridge Engineer Approved: May 11, 2021</p>

Changes are shaded.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This memorandum is effective for projects advertised on or after May 11, 2021.

SPAN LENGTH LIMITS FOR ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:

The following span limits shall apply to structures:

Maximum Span Length		
Structure Type	Span Length*, ft.	Supplemental Requirements
Overhead Sign Structure	150	Structure shall not have a center support.
Overhead Sign Cantilever	50	VMS or CMS signs shall not be erected on cantilever structures.
Signal Mast Arm	78	
Overhead Signal Structure	190	Signal structure shall have a single chord or twin chord only.
Signal Twin Mast Arms	70 single arm	Maximum combined length for both arms is 130 feet.
Span Wire Signal	225	

* Span length is defined as center-to-center of column for span structure and face-of-column to tip of arm for cantilever and signal structures.

BRIDGE MOUNTED ANCILLARY STRUCTURES:

Bridge mounted ancillary structures shall not be used except where allowed as per Part 2 - Chapter 31 of the Manual of the Structure and Bridge Division.

DESIGN WAIVERS:

Variances from the requirements in this memorandum require an approved design waiver. Design waivers shall be submitted using form SB109 to the Assistant State Traffic Engineer for Traffic Control Devices for approval by the State Structure and Bridge Engineer. The request should include the following information:

- Maximum length from table above and proposed length.
- Reason(s) why the maximum length criteria cannot be met.
- Justification for waiver.
- Background information which documents or justifies the request including why an alternative structure is not feasible. Examples include the following: location/site view and/or an aerial photo with proposed placement of ancillary structure, proposed sign message, location(s) of proposed signal and other traffic control devices, etc.
- Mitigation to further support or justify the waiver request.